

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

November 7, 2014

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1 Facial Recognition Software - Coming Soon

How long do you think it takes police officers to look through thousands of pictures when trying to identify a criminal who has committed crimes in the past? This first story is about a new technology that will help Calgary police identify criminals much faster than ever before.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary word. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
facial	to do with, or relating to the face
recognition	the act of knowing someone because that person has already been known
software	a computer program
mug shot	a picture of someone who has been arrested
database	a large amount of information stored in a computer system that you can access
identify	to correctly recognize, know, or name someone or something
suspect	someone who is thought to be guilty of a crime

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Closed circuit television footage – the recordings made from the use of video cameras in public places, like stores, casinos, airports, banks, etc.

Police investigation– an official attempt (try) to find out the truth about a crime or accident

1. The police always want to correctly _____ who the criminals are before making an arrest. The way they identify these criminals is by looking through all of the _____ in the computer's _____ at the police station.
2. Police officers look at the _____ characteristics of the people who are in trouble with the law and then compare their faces with the pictures they already have on file in the database.
3. There is a new type of computer _____, which will help police officers catch the wanted _____ a lot quicker now and it is this technology that will make facial _____ so much easier now.

Listening Activity – listen to the audio and answer the questions below. Answers are in appendix.

1. What is the main idea of this listening passage?
2. Who has already used this recognition software in Canada?
3. What specifically will be compared with this facial recognition software?
4. How do the police currently search for and identify suspects in their investigations?
5. How long will the search to identify suspects take the police using the new software?
6. What will the software not be used to identify?

Discussion: What else do you think facial recognition software may be used for in the future? What are the benefits of this software? Can you think of some disadvantages of using it?

News story #2 Traffic Jam Fix

How much time each day do you spend traveling from place to place? How much of that travel time are you stuck in a traffic jam, or stuck sitting at traffic lights. This second story is about a plan to fix traffic problems in certain areas of Calgary.

Vocabulary: Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story to the correct definition in the other column. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
	fix	a) so much traffic that you can't drive easily
	interchange	b) the cost of something
	priority	c) an official and formal suggestion for a new plan
	massive	d) to repair or to make something better
	price tag	e) the most important thing
	opposed	f) a point where two main roads meet
	proposed	g) the process of building of something
	construction	h) very large
	congestion	i) to be against something
	re-design	j) for something to happen over a long period of time, not quickly
	long-term	k) to create something again, but differently

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

city council committee – a group of elected people who make decisions about what the city needs

traffic jam – when there are a lot of cars stuck on the road and you cannot drive fast, or at all

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The main problem with the traffic jams seems to be on one road, 16th Avenue NE.
2. ____ There will be a total of three big changes made at different points along the road.
3. ____ The news report states that this re-designing plan will be cheaper than expected.
4. ____ Everyone agrees that this plan will be good for Calgary's traffic congestion.
5. ____ Ray Jones is opposed to the plan because he expects Barlow road to become more congested due to the addition of lights.
6. ____ The proposed construction plan will start in the next few years.
7. ____ This story is about a plan to decrease the traffic congestion in Calgary

Discussion Question: This project is expected to cost 200 million dollars. Look around your community or city and think about what could use improvements; for example, your local community center, homeless shelters, education programs, lunch programs for kids at school etc. Discuss how you would spend the money if you were the person responsible for it. Would you re-design the road? Would you spend it somewhere else?

News story #3 Bowness Park Re-opens

Do you remember the big flood last year that caused so much damage all over Calgary? This last story is about a park that has been closed ever since last year's flood and it is only now opening back up for the public to access it.

Vocabulary: Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. Match the words with their synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	devastating	a) unfinished still being built
	flood	b) pool of water pond
	under construction	c) disastrous destructive
	fenced off	d) wooden space to stand on platform
	deck	e) to restrict close off
	overlooking	f) abundance of water overwhelming flow
	lagoon	g) a view of something to look out onto something

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Bowness Park – a large, open green space near the river in Calgary

Ice-skating – a physical activity that involves gliding on the ice in shoes with blades on the bottoms

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. A city councilor says that the park _____.	a) will re-open this year b) was closed all last year
2. Sutherland's website says that _____.	a) the ice-skating will be available for people b) that not all of the park will re-open in November
3. People will not be able to access the east side because _____.	a) it will be fenced off b) it is not under construction anymore
4. The whole west side of the park will _____.	a) be open to the public b) still be under construction
5. The deck overlooking the lagoon, the entrance and the parking lot are _____.	a) not re-opening until it's ready b) part of the west side and central area of the park

Discussion: Do you like to do outdoor activities in the winter? What kinds of things do you do?

Language Focus: Giving Examples

When we are telling stories, like the new stories you heard today, it is very important to include examples to better show what you are trying to say to your listener or reader. Each of these stories uses examples to support what has been said. Today you will learn to identify those examples and then you will make sentences giving your own examples.

Let's do the first story together to demonstrate.

The main idea will be underlined and the examples will be highlighted.

... Inspector Rosemary Hawkins says the software will be used to compare photos and videos, such as closed circuit television footage.

Note: Signal words for introducing an example: “such as”, “for example”, “for instance”, and “like”. Be careful, these words are not always used to introduce examples. Sometimes examples can be given in their own sentences without the signal words.

Now you try to find the main idea and the examples that support it for the next two stories.

Answers are in the appendix.

Story two: You will be looking for 3 examples to support the main idea. Careful, there isn't a signal word here to help you.

A city council committee has approved a long-term plan to fix traffic problems on 16th Avenue North East. There's a plan to put new interchange at 19th Street, re-design the interchange at Barlow Trail and add a third bridge over Deerfoot Trail.

Story three: There is also one main idea here and three examples to support it. Careful, there isn't a signal word here to help you.

However, Sutherland says the entire west half of the park and the central area, including the deck overlooking the lagoon, the entrance road and parking lot, will be open.

Now, you try to finish these sentences and give examples with them too. Possible answers are in the appendix:

1. I have a few different foods that I really enjoy. For example, I like _____, _____, and _____.
2. I do many things to learn English. For instance, I _____.
3. I think the three most important _____ are _____, _____ and _____.

Now practice telling your partner some things about yourself and include examples. Use the signal words.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	NOVEMBER 7 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Intro.	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of November 7 th .	0:00
Story 1	Calgary police will be the first in Canada to use facial recognition software. Inspector Rosemary Hawkins says the software will be used to compare photos and videos, such as closed circuit television footage. She says the Calgary Police Service has about 300-thousand mug shots in its database. Prior to this technology, staff manually searched and attempted to identify suspects in police investigations. With this facial recognition software police will now be able to do this within minutes and seconds. Hawkins says the software will not be used to identify the general public walking down the streets.	0:09
Story 2	A city council committee has approved a long-term plan to fix traffic problems on 16th Avenue North East. There's a plan to put a new interchange at 19th Street, re-design the interchange at Barlow Trail and add a third bridge over Deerfoot Trail. And it all comes with a massive price tag: 200 million dollars. Councilor Ray Jones says he's opposed to the proposed redesign of the cloverleaf at 16th Avenue and Barlow Trail, because it will put two traffic lights on Barlow and only cause more traffic problems on that major road. The transportation committee has approved the idea and it will soon go to city council, but don't look for construction any time soon. The project isn't in the proposed four-year budget. But because of the congestion created by traffic lights on that part of the busy roadway, administration says it will move up the priority list to be a top project in the next ten years.	0:54
Story 3	A Calgary city councillor says Bowness Park will be open this winter for ice-skating. The park was closed after last year's devastating flood. But Ward Sutherland says on his website that most of it will reopen to the public on Monday, November 10th. The east side of the park is still under construction and will be fenced off. However, Sutherland says the entire west half of the park and the central area, including the deck overlooking the lagoon, the entrance road and parking lot, will be open.	2:08

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary:

1. The police always want to correctly **identify** who the criminals are before making an arrest. The way they identify these criminals is by looking through all of the **mug shots** in the computer's **database** at the police station.
2. Police officers look at the **facial** characteristics of the people who are in trouble with the law and then compare these faces with the pictures they already have on file in the database.
3. There is a new type of computer **software**, which will help police officers catch the wanted **suspects** a lot quicker now and it is this technology that will make facial **recognition** so much easier.

Listening:

1. What is the main idea of this listening passage? **The Calgary police will soon be using facial recognition software to identify criminals more quickly.**
2. Who has already used this recognition software in Canada? **The Calgary police will be the first to use it in Canada.**
3. What specifically will be compared with this facial recognition software? **photos and videos -- such as closed circuit television footage to about 300-thousand mug shots in its database.**
4. How do the police currently search for and identify suspects in their investigations? **They would manually (one-by-one) search and attempt to identify suspects in police investigations by going through the database and looking at every mug shot.**
5. How long will the search to identify suspects take the police using the new software? **minutes and seconds**
6. What will the software not be used to identify? **the general public walking down the streets**

News story 2

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Related words
d	fix	a) so much traffic that you can't drive easily
f	interchange	b) the cost of something
e	priority	c) an official and formal suggestion for a new plan to make a change to something
h	massive	d) to repair or to make something better
b	price tag	e) the most important thing
i	opposed	f) a point where two main roads meet

c	proposed	g) the process of building of something
g	construction	h) very large
a	congestion	i) to be against something
k	re-design	j) for something to happen over a long period of time, not quickly
j	long-term	k) to create something again, but differently

Listening:

1. T The main problem with the traffic jams seems to be on one road; 16th Avenue NE.
2. T There will be a total of three big changes made at different points along the road.
3. F The news report states that this re-designing plan will be cheaper than expected.
4. F Everyone agrees that this plan will be good for Calgary's traffic congestion.
5. T Ray Jones is opposed to the plan because he expects Barlow road to become more congested due to the addition of lights.
6. F The proposed construction plan will start in the next few years.
7. T This story is about a plan to decrease the traffic congestion in Calgary

News story 3

Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
c	devastating	a) unfinished still being built
f	flood	b) pool of water pond
a	under construction	c) disastrous destructive
e	fenced off	d) wooden space to stand on platform
d	deck	e) to restrict close off
g	overlooking	f) abundance of water overwhelming flow
b	lagoon	g) a view of something to look out onto something

Listening:

1. A city councilor says that the park _____.	a) will re-open this year. b) was closed all last year.
2. Sutherland's website says that _____.	a) the ice-skating will be available for people. b) that not all of the park will re-open on November 10th.
3. People will not be able to access the East side because _____.	a) it will be fenced off. b) it is not under construction anymore.
4. The whole west side of the park will _____.	a) be open to the public b) be under construction
5. The deck overlooking the lagoon, the entrance and the parking lot are _____.	a) not re-opening until it's ready. b) part of the west side and central area of the park.

Language focus:

Story two: This one is a little tricky because it does not have the key words that are listed above. You will be looking for 3 examples to support the main idea.

A city council committee has approved a long-term plan to fix traffic problems on 16th Avenue North East. There's a plan to put **new interchange at 19th Street**, **re-design the interchange at Barlow Trail** and **add a third bridge over Deerfoot Trail**.

- These are three examples of what the long-term plan will specifically include.

Story three: There is also one main idea here and three examples to support it.

The east side of the park is still under construction and will be fenced off. However, Sutherland says **the entire west half of the park and the central area**, including **the deck overlooking the lagoon, the entrance road and parking lot**, will be open.

Possible answers:

1. I have a few different foods that I really enjoy. For example, I like pasta, strawberries, and sushi.
2. I do many things to learn English. For instance, I do a lot of listening practice on different websites.
3. I think the three most important types of people in our lives are family, friends and the people we work with every day.